

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)      Method A method for the production of cast steel strip (B), wherein, in a continuous procedure~~[],]~~ comprises casting a steel melt is cast into a casting gap (4), the having longitudinal sides of which are formed by walls that move during the casting process, to form the steel strip [(B)], and holding the steel melt, which is present above the casting gap [(4)] in a melt pool [(6)], is held under an atmosphere [(A)] containing nitrogen and hydrogen, characterised in that wherein the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [(A)] is greater than 0 mol % to 10 mol %, and the Cr, Mo, Nb, Si, Ti, Ni, Mn, C or N contents of the cast steel melt, which are selectively present in each case for adjusting the characteristics of the steel strip [(B)], are in each case selected in such a way that for the ratio Cr<sub>eq</sub>/Ni<sub>eq</sub> formed from the Cr equivalent Cr<sub>eq</sub> and the Ni equivalent Ni<sub>eq</sub>, the following applies:

$$\text{Cr}_{\text{eq}}/\text{Ni}_{\text{eq}} \geq 1.7,$$

wherein      Cr<sub>eq</sub> = %Cr + 1.37 %Mo + 2 %Nb + 1.5 %Si + 3 %Ti,  
                  Ni<sub>eq</sub> = %Ni + 0.31 %Mn + 22 %C + 14 %N + %Cu,  
                  %Cr = respective Cr content,  
                  %Mo = respective Mo content,  
                  %Nb = respective Nb content,  
                  %Si = respective Si content,  
                  %Ti = respective Ti content,  
                  %Ni = respective Ni content,  
                  %Mn = respective Mn content,  
                  %C = respective C content,  
                  %N = respective N content.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim claim 1, wherein characterised in that the casting gap [[(4)]] is formed between two casting rollers [[(2, 3)]], which rotate in opposite directions, are cooled during the casting operation and delimit the longitudinal sides of the casting gap [[(4)]].

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~either one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is at least 0.5 mol %.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is no greater than 7.5 mol %.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the atmosphere [[(A)]] additionally contains a noble gas.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim claim 5, wherein characterised in that the noble gas is argon.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that the nitrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is at least 30 mol %.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein~~ characterised in that for the ratio  $Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq}$ , the following applies:  $Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq} \geq 1.8$ .

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of Claims 2 to 8~~ claim 2, wherein characterised in that the casting rollers (2, 3) have a stochastic unevenness distribution.